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Message Text

SECRET

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53
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W
---------- 076693
O 251635Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9919
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMDMBASSY DAKAR 998
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USUN NEW YORK 306

S E C R E T MONROVIA 5874

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/ PFOR, XA, XF
SUBJECT: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 209574

1. I CONVEYED SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS MORNING OF OCTOBER 25. FOREIGN MINISTER STATED INTER ALIA:

(1) GOL NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERING BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL;

(2) IF GOL HAD CONSIDERED RUPTURE, THE BREAK WOLD HAVE COME SHORTLY AFTER OUTBREAK OF HOSITILITIES AND NOT RPT NOT NOW WHEN CEASEFIRE IS TAKING HOLD;

(3) GIVEN CLOSE US-GOL RELATIONS, GOL WOULD NOT CONTEMPLATE ACTION OF THIS GRAVITY WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING US.

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FOREIGN MINISTER ADMITTED TO HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ARAB STATES

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BUT SAIDGOL AIMS SAME AS OURS IN SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ROLE US HAD PLAYED AS PEACEMAKER AND BELIEVED PRESIDENT TOLBERT EFFORTS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF US. HE MENTIONED THAT IN ADDITION HIS MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND BREZNEV THAT TOLBERT HAD SENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT QADHAFI AND PRESIDENT SADAT APPEALING FOR THEIR PERSONAL EFFORTS ARRIVE AT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FEARED BAND-WAGON PSYCHOLOGY IN AFRICA CONCERNING RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT INDICATED GOL WOULD STAND FAST AGAINST PRESSURE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD INFORM PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF MY DEMARCHE WHEN HE SEES HIM THIS AFTERNOON AT HIS FARM IN BONG COUNTY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS QUITE FIRM AND CATEGORIC IN HIS STATEMENTS, I PERSONALLY DO NOT BELIEVE GOL IS AS SOLID AS HE CLAIMS ON THIS ISSUE. SHOULD NIGERIA BREAK RELATIONS, FOLLOWING ON ETHIOPIAN ACTION, I FEEL SURE GOL WILL AT LEAST RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

4. AFTER DICTATING ABOVE, I RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM ISRAELI AMBASSADOR AT 1600 HOURS SAYING THAT FINANCE MINISTER TOLBERT HAD JUST CALLED HIM TO INFORM HIM OF NIGERIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WAS BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. STEPHEN TOLBERT SAID NIGERIAN ACTION WOULD "PLACE GOL IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION." ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT I EXERT ALL POSSIBLE INFLUENCE TO STIFFEN GOL RESOLVE. I INFORMED HIM OF MY DISCUSSSION WITH DENNIS, NOTING THAT OBVIOUSLY DENNIS UNAWARE PROSPECTIVE NIGERIAN ACTION. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SAID DENNIS NOW JOINING STEPHEN STOLBERT FOR DISCUSSSION GOL POSITION AND AMBASSADOR EXPECTED TO BE CALLED IN MOMENTARILY.

5. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED CALL TO MEET WITH STEPHEN TOLBERT. WILL REPORT FURTHER.
MANFULL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MANFULL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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